9. Depreciation on Computer @60% per annum.

10. Reduction in Custom Duty on computer and peripherars to 15%. The customs duty on all storagae devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors is @0%.

11. Software exempted from custom duty and excise duty.

12. Relaxation in income tax to software units under EOU/EPZ/STP Schemes.

13. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings.

14. Computer systems have been made freely importable. The donation of used computers to educational institutes. hospitals etc. have been permitted duty free from units in EOU/EPZ/STP/ Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)

15. Exemption on income from dividends on Venture Capital Fund.

16. "Business Support Centre" has been opened in "Silicon Valley" California, USA to assist small & medium enterprises in establishing strategic alliance in the US.

Increasing unemployment

†3350. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of unemployed persons registered in various Employment Exchanges is increasing constantly in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to formulate any scheme for providing employment to such persons; and

(c) if so, the outline of the scheme and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Employment Exchanges only sponsor the candidates against the vacancies notified to them by the employers. They do not operate any

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

scheme of their own to provide employment to job- seekers. However, the primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rate of unemployment and under employment.

A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia, Member, Planning Commission has also been set up to look into the employment generation taking place and suggest measures to generate at least one hundred million jobs in a period of 10 years (Ten million jobs in each year).

Employment of Personnel in Private Sector

3351. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists a mechanism to ascertain employment of personnel in private sector;

(b) if so, how many cases of violation of minimum wages have to come to light; and

(c) the action taken against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) collects data on employment through comprehensive surveys on quinquennial basis. In addition to the quinquennial surveys, NSSO also conducts annual surveys with a smaller sample size. Besides, the Directorate General of Employment and Training also collects data on employment in the organised sector under its Employment Market Information (EMI) Programme.

(b) and (c) As regards violation of minimum wages, the enforcement of the provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is secured through the officers of Central Industrial Relations machinery in the Central sphere. In the State sphere, the enforcement is secured through the State Enforcement Machinery. The officers who conduct regular inspections, take appropriate action whenever any case of non-payment or less payment of minimum wages is detected.

In the Central sphere, most of the mines covered as scheduled employment under the Minimum Wages Act are in private sector. As per the latest available information pertaining to violations of the provisions of the